

A TRIBUTE



MISS ELEANOR JONES

Seldom, indeed, it is, the Deaf have a chance to honor one who has been so unselfishly devoted to the cause of better education for their group as our Miss Jones. Fifty years a teacher! Ordinarily, a record to be proud of, certainly! Doubly so when the students have all been deaf or deafened since birth or stricken with deafness by some childhood disease. Why so?

Training the deaf child is altogether different from the training given the hearing child. The hearing child has already received some preliminary education through normal family conversation and playmates. The deaf child has had none of these experiences. Everywhere there is silence, seeing others all around carrying on amicable conversation, the little brain slowly recognizes the big difference. Crying and impromptu little signs are the child's only means of communication. In all probability, the bewildered though devoted parents have made the mistake of shielding the child from normal contact with others. So naturally, when the child does enter school, there is the problem of extreme shyness and probably fear—to overcome before any progress can be made in classroom work. The need for kind, patient understanding from the teacher in addition to academic knowledge can be readily recognized.

(Continued on page 6)